

Elias Fries " on the Botany of  
Königsberg in Botaniska Aflyggas  
Bd. I p. 43 and German trad. by  
Dr. Creplin in Hornschuch Archiv für  
Naturgeschichte Bd. 1845 T. 1. p. 38 partly  
p. 45 all animals and plants possess a  
male and a female principle —  
the female principle generally the  
material of the embryo  
There is quoted Boist. & generations  
animalium I cap. 20. 21. that the  
tradition which is quoted is not  
yet accessible to me, being in the  
B. Agassiz library, and I can not  
find the place nor in the Latin  
translation nor in the Greek original  
which I just compared; therefore  
I do not know if Boist. has used  
the word embryo.

Wagen Cambridge Mass  
Jan. 9 1879

Dear Sir,

The question when the word embryo  
was first introduced in science is  
a very interesting one, and apparently  
different from the question when it  
was first used.

Linne S. N. Ed. X. 1758 T. I p. 9

says Quam . . . vegetans in Embryone  
and just so in Ed. XI. p. 15  
but I don't find that he has used it  
for plants, there always fetus or  
corculum is used.

For plants the first time I know  
is to be found in Ch. Bonnet Considera-  
tions sur les corps organisés 1762.

I can only compare the German trad.  
~~of 1776~~ and there cap. II. Article 18 you find  
" Two Hypotheses about the place of the  
Embryo " and this article speaks only  
about plants.

Haller's words are posterior to the Latin given, but I could not compare them.

Swammerdam, Malpighi, Vallisneri, Leuwenhoeck so far I see did never use the word, also some other old works at my hand, but I could not compare Harvey.

Rondelet, Redi, N. Grew and Ruysch use always foetus.

Now it is very possible nevertheless that the word embryo has been used before as it is used by Dioscorides, Theophrast and Lucretius and long before in Homers Odyssey IX. 309. 345.

Of Aristotle's I had only at hand the old Latin Translations by Gaza, but I did not find

the word embryo used, probably it will be in the Greek text.

Plinius uses foetus, and I think the word embryo does not occur in Latin works.

The French Dict. Hist. nat. gives "embryo or cocoon" for phœnix, but I was not able to consult the large French Encyclop. and Dictionary.

This is all I can make out, and I think Linnæus and Bonnet the first authors, the first for animals, the latter for plants.

Respectfully yours

Dr H. Pagen  
I did not find the word in  
Baro's Verulam, Aldrovand, Wotton &  
some others.